

DRAFT OF SPECIFICATIONS FOR MOVING BEN LOMOND SLAVE QUARTERS

Bids are being solicited for the moving as a whole of a small stone building from its present location to an as yet undecided new site. Several alternative new sites are now being considered.

The building, known as the Ben Lomond Stone Accessory Building, or Ben Lomond Slave quarters, is presently located on the south side of Sudley Manor Drive about 1/3 mile from the intersection of Sudley Rd. and Sudley Manor Drive.

The slave quarters measures 18 x 23 feet and is constructed of randomly-laid, locally quarried red sandstone, mortared with mud, lime-sand, and repainted in part with Portland cement. The walls measure 18" thick at the ground line. The foundation is of stone, c36" thick. There is at least one opening on each side. The floor is poured concrete probably over earth. Interior walls are covered in part with plaster. Significant interior woodwork consists of hand-hewn, heavy timber door and window lintels, roof plate, and floor joists. Roof rafters and collar beams are also hand-hewn, though some roof elements have been replaced, including the roof covering.

The slave quarters will be moved to an as yet undetermined location. At present, two possible locations (and perhaps a third) are being considered, although at present only one alternative is practicable, owing to the requirement that the building be moved to a County-owned site.

The most preferable location would be to a spot closer to the Ben Lomond main house (located on a 6-acre site beside the church parcel which contains the slave quarters). The distance involved in this move would range from about 40 feet to about 200 feet. The Ben Lomond parcel, though it is not presently owned by the County, ~~any~~ eventually be acquired by the County and is considered to be the most desirable place to which to move the slave quarters.

The second alternative is to move the slave quarters to a spot beside and to the right of the County-owned Ben Lomond Community Center. This would involve moving the building across Sudley Manor Drive, a 4-lane subdivision road with a narrow median strip. It is not anticipated that any electrical lines would need to be disconnected for a move to this site, though traffic may be disrupted somewhat during the move across the road.

The third possible location is an as yet undetermined site no more than 3 miles away from the present location of the building, probably in the vicinity of Sudley Road (S.R. 234). (No specific details on the location of this possible new site were available at this writing.)

Discussion: It may be advisable, though it is not specifically being required at present, that, to insure the building's holding together during the move, it be completely repointed, both inside and out. This repointing would be part of the preparation of the building for the move, and should possibly be done in view of the present deteriorated condition of the building's mortar and stonework, ~~which substantially weakens the structural strength of the walls.~~

It is presumed that the new site would be prepared independent of (and prior to) the actual moving of the building. This site would be prepared either by a separate contractor or by a designee of the Prince William County Office which will coordinate the move.

The archeological potential of this site has also been recognized. Owing to the probability that excavation around the edges of the building would produce valuable artifacts, it is hoped that this excavation will be performed by trained volunteer archeologists (either professional or amateur) under the supervision of a professional leader, prior to any excavation for the move. It is therefore suggested that any archeological work be done before the site is prepared for the building's removal. See accompanying map and photographs for further information.